

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SSO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 EB-08 HEW-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3201

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, SGEN

SUBJ: 62ND ECOSOC--HUMAN RIGHTS PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 084272

(B) STATE 078863

(C) STATE 76062

(D) USUN 1054

(E) USUN 1041

1. REACTIONS RECEIVED TO DATE FROM MEMBERS OF THE WEO GROUP, BASED IN PART ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS AND IN PART ON REACTIONS OF NY DELEGATIONS WHO ARE STILL LACKING INSTRUCTIONS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. MOST COUNTRIES DOUBT THAT A PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTIONZLIZE TWO ANNUAL SESSIONS WILL SUCCEED

B. ALL COUNTRIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT SUCH A PROPOSAL IF WE WISHED NEVERTHELESS TO SUBMIT IT

C. SEVERAL THOUGHT THAT A PROPOSAL TO HOLD TWO MEETINGS DURING A SPECIFIC YEAR, 1978 OR 1979, WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS, SINCE IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT SUCH
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A SESSION WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW THE HRC TO CLEAR ITS AGENDA

D. MOST ARGUED THAT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IS DUE TO A LACK OF WILL AND NOT RELATED TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE.

E. IN SOME CASES COMMENT FROM CAPITALS WAS IN FAVOR OF PROLONGING THE CURRENT SESSION, ALTHOUGH LOCAL DELEGATES WERE UNANIMOUSLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CURRENT SESSIONS ARE ALREADY TOO LONG AND EXHAUSTING.

ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE THE MISSION WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE CONSIDER A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR TWO SESSIONS IN A SPECIFIC YEAR, 1978 OR 1979, IN ORDER TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE AGENDA AND PLAN FUTURE WORK. THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH 1978 IN VIEW OF THE CROWDED SCHEDULE INCLUDING THE RACISM DECADE CONFERENCE IN AUGUST.

2. AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A PROLONGED SPRING SESSION IN NY REPORTING TO THE SUMMER ECOSOC. WE MIGHT THUS AVOID MOVING THE SECRETARIAT ITSELF.

3. DETAILED DELEGATION COMMENTS ARE GIVEN BELOW.

AUSTRALIA (LOCAL OPINION), SUGGESTED THAT THE HRC HOLD ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY IN NY AND REPORT TO THE SUMMER ECOSOC (GENEVA) WHICH WOULD HAVE A SOCIAL COMMITTEE AS WELL AS AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE.

4. PORTUGAL (LOCAL OPINION), HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE TWO-SESSION PROPOSAL. PORTUGAL HAS NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HRC AND STATED IT HAS NO EXPERIENCE ON WHICH TO DRAW FOR COMMENT.

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5. DENMARK (CAPITAL), WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL BUT DOES NOT THINK IT WOULD SUCCEED. THEY WOULD RECOMMEND STARTING WITH A PROPOSAL FOR TWO SESSIONS NEXT YEAR.

6. BELGIUM (CAPITAL), IS IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL BUT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN. THEY WOULD PREFER A PROPOSAL WHICH DOES NOT INSTITUTIONALIZE TWO YEARLY SESSIONS. THEY WOULD FAVOR A REQUEST FOR TWO MEETINGS IN 1978.

7. NEW ZEALAND (CAPITAL), SAID LACK OF PROGRESS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO LACK OF WILL ON THE THE PART OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND A SECOND SESSION WOULD NOT LEAD TO MORE PROGRESS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE THE AGENDA TO AVOID REPETITION OF THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA AND CHILE. SERVICING TWO MEETINGS A YEAR WOULD POSE SOME PROBLEMS FOR SMALL DELEGATIONS AND INVOLVE ADDED EXPENSE FOR GOVERNMENTS. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE AN ADVERSE REACTION ON THE PART OF OTHER COMMISSIONS,

SUCH AS THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN WHICH IS
ALREADY UNHAPPY ABOUT MEETING ON A BIENNIAL BASIS.

8. NORWAY (CAPITAL), SAID THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE
PROPOSAL ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD PREFER A PROLONGED SESSION.
THE ALREADY CROWDED CALENDAR MAKES SCHEDULING OF THE
SECOND SESSION DIFFICULT.

9. AUSTRIA (CAPITAL), WOULD FAVOR A PROLONGED SESSION
CITING DIFFICULTIES OF SCHEDULING.

10. UK (LOCAL), SAID EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HRC DEPENDS
ON THE POLITICAL WILL TO ACT, NOT THE LENGTH OR VENUE
OF THE SESSION.

1. FRG (LOCAL), PREFERS TO SET AN ATTAINABLE GOAL,
SUCH AS SCHEDULING A ONE-TIME SPECIAL SESSION. THEY
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DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTIONALIZE TWO
SESSIONS WOULD SUCCEED AT THIS POINT.

12. ITALY (LOCAL), WOULD SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL, BUT
POINTED OUT THAT THE TIMING OF A SECOND SESSION IN
AUGUST IN NY WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE TO THE PURPOSES WE
HOPE TO ACHIEVE AS MOST HIGH-LEVEL MEMBERS OF MISSIONS
ARE ABSENT FROM NY IN AUGUST. THERE IS NO OTHER UN
ACTIVITY IN AUGUST AND VIRTUALLY NO ONE IN TOWN AT THAT TIME.

13.

CANADA (LOCAL), SAID SECOND SESSION WOULD NOT ALTER
THE SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY LACK OF DESIRE ON THE
PART OF DELEGATIONS TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS. PROPOSAL
FOR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IN CONTRARY TO ARGUMENTS IN RE-
STRUCTURING, CALLING FOR FEWER SESSIONS.

14. FRANCE (LOCAL), IS RELUCTANT TO COMMENT WITHOUT IN-
STRUCTIONS BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT IS ALREADY A DIFFICULT
TASK TO PREPARE FOR THE ONE YEARLY SESSION NOW SCHEDULED.
LEONARD

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